



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

*501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 6, 2001

**TRUSTEE OF EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN
PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLING FUNDS**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that Mark Fukuhara, age 52, of Roseville, CA pled guilty today to one count of Interference with Employee Benefits, under ERISA, for actions that took place while he was the trustee of an employee benefit plan for a small corporation in Redding. Mr. Fukuhara admitted diverting over \$7,000 for his own use which had been withheld from employees' salaries for retirement benefits. Mr. Fukuhara is expected to pay full restitution.

This plea is the result of the joint efforts of James Arguellas, Assistant United States Attorney, and Kimberly Allen, Certified Student Law Clerk.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced before United States Magistrate Dale A. Drozd on January 15, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.

This case is the product of an joint investigation with the San Francisco regional office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration. Bette Briggs, Regional Director of the San Francisco Office, credits a beneficiary of a plan with calling her office when he could not obtain a full accounting of his 401(k) contributions. Briggs encourages workers to keep track of their benefits, and if they have questions or suspect abuse of their pension, health, or other benefit plans, to contact her office at (415) 975-4600.

###